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Subject: Oxitec and GBIT announce launch of Friendly™ Aedes Project in India

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Oxitec and GBIT announce launch of Friendly™ Aedes Project in India

Dawalwadi (Jalna), India, and Oxford, UK, January 23rd, 2017 - Gangabishan Bhikulal Investment and Trading Limited (GBIT) and Oxitec announced today the launch of the Friendly™ Aedes project in Dawalwadi, India. Outdoor caged trials of Oxitec's Friendly™ Aedes mosquito have been initiated to demonstrate the efficacy of the Friendly™ mosquitoes in suppressing the local *Aedes aegypti* population.

The announcement comes following the inauguration of the field cage facility by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research. Following these cage trials, GBIT and Oxitec plan to conduct open field trials of the Friendly™ mosquitoes, pending approval from the Indian regulatory authorities.

Mr. Shirish Barwale, Director, GBIT said "Increasing cases of dengue and chikungunya have been reported in recent years. Presently available methods have not been effective against these public health hazards. We are very optimistic that this pioneering technology from Oxitec will help us to control the mosquito responsible for spreading these diseases."

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